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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/329,606	06/10/1999	ANDREW F. ROBERTS	10012.911	8318

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EXAMINER

PRIETO, BEATRIZ

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application N .

09/329,606

Applicant(s) #G

ROBERTS ET AL.

Examiner

B. PRIETO

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5/6 6) ☐ Other:

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Drawings have been objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152, correction noted on PTO-948 is required.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneck et. al. (Schneck) U.S. Patent No. 6,260,039.

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Schneck teaches substantial features of the invention as claimed. Schneck teaches a system/method comprising:

storing identifiers of a plurality of services (col 4/lines 23-33, 43-63, col 3/lines 37-38), in a (104) directory (col 3/lines 37-38);

an computer 102 (engine, i.e. processor) receiving request (col 3/lines 54-56, col 4/lines 48-52, 53-56) to access said plurality of services;

a plurality of drivers means for handling request and responses to/from said plurality of services (i.e. drivers for interfacing with said plurality of services) (col 3/lines 28-33, col 4/lines 10-14, interfacing with services, col 4/line 10-14) and with said engine via a plurality of drivers based on said requests (col 4/lines 23-3, 42-65 request data);

said services comprising a plurality of service providers accessible to said plurality of drivers for providing services identified (e.g. names) in said directory (col 5/lines 33-67, service entities using directory entries, col 5/lines 62-67).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time

the invention was made to implement to claimed directory, using a database for storing a plurality of services information, to implement claimed engine, using a computer processor for receiving request for accessing a plurality of services including any resource accessible of a client/server (request-response) architecture, to implement claim drivers, using an processor and executable instructions for processing the request and responses between said services and said engine and provide access to said services. These elements providing the same functionality as claimed elements, motivation would be to enable the access to a wide variety of services resources comprising multi-sourced content and further customize build responses, as suggested by Schneck.

Regarding claim 2, the above teachings further teach wherein said directory includes metadata descriptive information, i.e. metadata (col 3/lines 57-60) for each of said plurality of services in said directory (col 5/lines 36-37, 41-49).

Regarding claim 3, the above teachings further teach wherein said metadata defines a schema comprises input/output data (e.g. data format (html) or HTTP parameters) (col 4/lines 23-33, 42-65).

Regarding claim 4, the above teachings further teach wherein said metadata further includes definition, invocation or commands data, i.e. configuration parameters for defining, invoking, or commanding, i.e. configuring a specific driver (col 5/lines 26-32, object class) associated with said service (col 5/lines 1-11, col 6/lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 5, the above teachings further teach wherein said services are accessible via an API (col 4/lines 10-14).

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4. Claims 6-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneck et. al. (Schneck) U.S. Patent No. 6,260,039 in view of Call U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738.

Regarding claim 6, the above teachings however do not explicitly teach wherein said services are XML-based services;

Call teaches a directory of a plurality of services means for receiving request to access said services and means for providing said services using data in said directory identifying services, wherein said services are XML-based services (col 9/lines 66-col 23/line 49).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include XML based services, motivation would be enabling enhance the rendered services wherein the selection and rendering of the product information services is controlled by the links specified by service provider providing dynamic data controlled by the style specification which may have different visual styles, as suggested by Call.

Regarding claim 7, the above teachings further teach wherein a service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response (col 4/lines 15-21).

Regarding claim 8, the above teachings further teach wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what services are needed to fulfill request, directs requests to the appropriate services via said service drivers (col 7/lines 8-14, col 5/lines 62-67), and builds responses into replies (col 7/lines 18-32, col 6/lines 1-6).

Regarding claim 9, the above teachings further teach wherein said requests comprise HTTP requests (col 4/lines 23-33).

Regarding claim 10, the above teachings further teach wherein access to said system is accomplished via a web (108) browser (col 3/lines 24-41).

Regarding claims 12-20, these claims comprise the method associated with the system disclosed on claims 2-10, respectively same rationale is applicable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Prieto, B.** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0750**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Mark H. Rinehart** can be reached on **(703) 305-4815**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 308-6606**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3800/4700**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for Official communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 746-7240 (for Non-Official or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA., Fourth Floor (Receptionist), further ensuring that a receipt is provided stamped "TC 2100".

B. Prieto  
Patent Examiner  
January 3, 2002

MEHMET B. GECKIL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

